

KDE Consolidated Monitoring Report

District:	Mercer County
Date(s) of Visit:	March 17, 2015 - March 19, 2015
Team Leads:	
Title I: Monica Murphy	Title II: Lorrie Devers
Title III: Gary Martin	Program Reviews: Robert Duncan
IDEA: Ginger Meade	Career and Technical Education: Kiley Whitaker
Gifted and Talented: Kathie Anderson	Preschool: Annie Rooney-French
Alternative Programs: Michael Hefling	

Highlight of Effective Practice 1

Programs Addressed	Alternative Programs		Title III		Career and Technical Education	
	IDEA		Title I	X	Title II	
Preschool	X	Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES)		Program Reviews		Gifted and Talented

Parent Involvement

Mercer County Schools provide ample opportunities for parent participation within the schools and district. Parent involvement at Mercer County Schools extends beyond parent teacher conferences, as parents are provided opportunities to volunteer, attend family nights, as well as serve on committees.

All schools work collaboratively to make home-to-school connections by providing families resources to extend continuous educational learning at home. The various schools provided websites and resources for additional reinforcement of concepts as well as materials for content area learning games.

During the summer, teachers collaborate with the Family Resource Youth Service Center (FRYSC) to hold a district-wide Read-fest. It is an event where families can access eye exams, physicals, haircuts and receive school materials. The Read-fest event is held each year at Mercer County High School, which is a central location for all schools in the district. Families have indicated that they enjoy the opportunity to interact together and become familiar with the high school that they will be attending in the future.

Each school also conducts transition programs for students and families during the summer. This includes, but is not limited to, grade level "jumpstart" camps, the open building policies where students and parents can visit the school and tour at their leisure, as well as the overnight experiences such as the "Boys to Men" and "My Gal and Me" programs. All activities are conducted with the focus of providing students with a seamless entry and exit into their new school environment.

Highlight of Effective Practice 2

Programs Addressed	Alternative Programs		Title III		Career and Technical Education	
	IDEA		Title I	X	Title II	
Preschool	X	Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES)		Program Reviews	X	Gifted and Talented

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Curriculum and Instruction

Each school in the Mercer County district is working to provide a rigorous curriculum that is focused on student achievement. At the primary level, the school district has engaged in a process to track their children's progress as they proceed through the primary program. Their data analysis included looking at Brigance screener scores. The staff also looks at students who completed the preschool program as compared to other children in state public preschool programs. MAP assessment data is then used to monitor former preschool students as they progress through 3rd grade. An excel spreadsheet is used to record their end-of-year progress and this is compared to national norm. Students are aware of their individual progress through an analysis of a data wall.

In middle school, programs such as Laying the Foundations, Kagan Cooperative Learning, the Literacy Design Collaborative and the Math Design Collaborative are being used to promote rigor and student engagement. Data is maintained for a minimum of three consecutive years to ensure progress and growth. All information is analyzed during Professional Learning Communities, making student learning and achievement a collaborative effort.

The program review team noted strong communication between district leadership and the schools to ensure strong program areas in the Arts, Practical Living/ Career Studies, Writing, K-3, and the new World Language/ Global Competencies in order to provide students with rigorous programs and can lead to higher student achievement.

Final Overview

The mission of Mercer County Schools is “to promote excellence in a positive academic, social and extra-curricular environment, emphasizing equity, diversity, safety and respect.” With a goal of becoming a top ten district, they are focused on enhancing effective communication and collaboration. It was evident that all district personnel were very knowledgeable on their individual programs and that there is ongoing communication between staff at the school and district levels.

Through continued relationships with parents and families, Mercer County will succeed in the advancement of student achievement. It is clear that everyone is working towards the same vision- success for all students.